

Dear parents and carers,

We've had a brilliant first week back at St Joseph's, with the children re-adjusting to school routines and working very hard in class.

It was All Souls Day on Monday, this weekend is Remembrance Sunday, and on Tuesday it is Remembrance Day. It is important that, as a Catholic community, we pray for those who have gone before us. We pray for loved ones who have died, recently or long ago. We pray for those who have died in conflict and pay tribute to service men and women during this time of remembrance. We pray that we may each be loving, empathetic and kind to those who are going through a bereavement of any kind, whether it is recent or historic. Grief never leaves us, but being part of a school family that has a vested interest in each other's wellbeing is such a gift to help support us.

It's easy to think of those around us, at the school gates or in the playgrounds, as just being other people, randomly connected to us. But my belief is that we are bonded by a community of faith, and by our wonderful children. In times of remembrance, we should also remember and cherish that we can be a family, too. We can invest in each other, share successes and struggles, and find ways to support those around us. This week, I'll be praying for continued connection across our community, and I hope you'll join me in that. In the meantime, please say hello to another parent you don't know, or ask how someone is while you wait outside; and, if you need any support of any kind, our door is open as a school.

God bless

Sam Crome



IMPORTANT DATES AND KEY INFO

Coming Up...

10-14th November
Anti Bullying Week

Future dates...

Y3 Natural History Museum
Thurs 13th November

FOSJ KS1 Social
Friday 14th Nov

FOSJ KS2 Social
Friday 21st Nov

[St Joseph's Instagram](#)

[Full School Calendar](#)

[Book a school tour:
01306 883934](#)

FIRST WEEK BACK - AMAZING ATTENDANCE!

The attendance at school this week has been fantastic! We hit 99% of children being in on Wednesday, which is incredible and means the community was together for our weekly whole-school collective worship.

The traffic is terrible in the area at the moment, so please leave a little earlier to make it to school on time, if you come by road. Thank you for your support!

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Next week is anti-bullying week, a hugely important time to consider how we can all treat each other with as much dignity, respect, kindness and love as possible. We will be exploring this at school, starting with **Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th November**, and also some activities in class and assemblies next week. Please allow your child to wear odd socks on Monday, with Mr Crome leading an assembly that morning to explain more.

[Please follow this link for more details about the national campaign.](#)



SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are collecting items for a Christmas Shoebox appeal which sends them to children facing hardship. The shoeboxes will be sent to *Children in Distress*, who then distribute them. The charity have now asked we have the boxes ready by the beginning of next week, so if you are donating, please send in items on Monday 10th. Thank you!

Ideas for what to include:

Ages 0-3:

Soft toys, Board books / cloth books, Teething toys / baby-safe rattles, Baby hats, mittens, socks (new or handmade), Baby toiletries Plastic feeding spoon, soft bibs

Ages 4-8:

Colouring/sticker books, Small toys or puzzles, Fun accessories, Warm hats/gloves, Sweet treats

Ages 9-12:

Stationery, Toiletries, Small games/toys, Water bottles, keyrings Sweet treats

HARVEST DONATIONS TO FOODBANK

As a school, we donated over 40kg of goods to the foodbank via our Harvest Festival appeal. Thank you so much for everything you contributed - it made a huge difference!

 Dorking Area
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Thank you!

St Joseph's School

For your generous harvest donation of 40.32 kg of food to Dorking Area Foodbank. Your support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

ACADEMISATION UPDATE

You will receive a letter via email from the governors, asking for your views about St Joseph's becoming an academy. If you have any questions please send them to consultation@stjosephs-dorking.surrey.sch.uk or you can come to the meeting for parents at 6pm on Wednesday 19 November to hear more and ask questions.



REMEMBRANCE DAY AND SUNDAY

Remembrance Day is on Tuesday 11th November, and as ever we will mark the occasion at school, but please also follow events for Remembrance Sunday this weekend. [Here is some information from the BBC about how you can watch or engage with it.](#)

We have a Poppy Appeal box in school and some children will be circulating around selling poppies over lunchtimes. If you wish your child to purchase a poppy, the recommended donation is 50p or more. Thank you.

We also have a remembrance book in school - please email the school office or pop in if you'd like to add the anniversary of someone's death, so that we can pray for those who have gone before us.



ST JOSEPH'S ECO LEADERS!

Caring for
God's gifts



Mrs Chin and her eco leaders have been very busy, planting bulbs and collecting seeds and taking care of the school environment. Their work is also on display at Dorking library until mid November, so please go and have a look!

Their work has also earned the school lots of free books as well as £40 in book tokens from Heath books. Thank you, team!



GOODBYE AND THANK YOU, MRS PINKERTON

For over 13 years, Mrs Pinkerton has been the School Business Manager and she has been an incredible servant to the school. You will see her face in the office by the window, and I'm sure she has dealt with your queries in the past! But her work behind the scenes is tireless: running school finances, working with contractors and the premises team, managing our HR, and many other things. The children and teachers fondly talk about how often she fixes all the technology around the school! She has now departed for new adventures and the school gave her a fond sendoff on Thursday afternoon. Good luck and thank you, Mrs Pinkerton!

